

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: RATION IMPROVEMENT

1. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. ARMY SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER (NATICK) AND THE DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA, THE ARMY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, SUBSISTENCE HAS MADE THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ARMY FIELD FEEDING PROGRAM AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

A. IN THE MEAL, READY-TO-EAT (MRE), PACKED FOR 2003 AND 2004, SOLDIERS CAN EXPECT TO FIND A VARIETY OF NEW SNACK ITEMS SUCH AS CANDIES, SPORTS BARS, AND A VARIETY OF CAPPUCCINO FLAVORS AND DAIRY SHAKES TO COMPLEMENT MANY MENUS.

B. IN THE UNITIZED GROUP RATION, HEAT & SERVE (UGR-H&S), A NEW RECONSTITUTABLE EGG PRODUCT HAS BEEN ADDED TO SOME MENUS. THIS PRODUCT, WHEN ADDED TO WATER, RECONSTITUTES TO A LIQUID EGG COMPARABLE TO THE EGGS USED IN DINING FACILITIES.

C. IN THE UNITIZED GROUP RATIONS, A-RATION (UGR-A), CHANGES IN APRIL 03 INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL FRUITS AND PUDDINGS INSTEAD OF NUMBER 10 CANS TO AID AND EASE THE SERVING AT REMOTE LOCATIONS AND NEW COMMERCIAL EGG PATTIES AND OMELETS IN 3 OF THE 7 BREAKFAST MENUS. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS OF CAKE AND BREAKFAST MUFFINS. EXPECT TO SEE NEW ITEMS LIKE BREAKFAST BISCUIT SANDWICHES, POT ROAST, ROTISSERIE CHICKEN AND A VARIETY OF FROZEN VEGETABLES IN FISCAL YEAR 2004.

D. FOR CONOPS, ACES HAS DEVELOPED MENUS THAT ADD NEW ENHANCEMENTS TO THE UGR-A PROGRAMS AND A NEW 21-DAY MENU WHEN FEEDING BEYOND THE GROUP RATION PROGRAM IS REQUIRED AND APPROVED BY THE ARMY G-4. IN SHORT, CONOPS FEEDING PROGRAM ADDRESSES FOOD SERVICE BEYOND THE PERIOD OF INITIAL DEPLOYMENT AND IN OTHER SCENARIOS, I.E. BASE CAMP OPERATIONS.

E. IT IS STANDARD PRACTICE IN THE RATION PROGRAM TO REVIEW DINER OPINION AND REPLACE THE LESS DESIRABLE MEAL COMPONENTS. THIS PROCESS ENSURES THAT THE WAR FIGHTERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FOODS THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO CURRENT FOOD SELECTIONS.

2. THE QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION (QUAD) OF ACES SERVES TO BE THE WAR FIGHTER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ARMY FIELD FEEDING PROGRAM AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES. YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOMED AND ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE RATIONS.

3. THE POC FOR QUAD IS QUAD DIVISION CHIEF, DSN 687-3366/COMMERICAL 804-734-3366.